

Wednesday, July 4, 2001

Milepost Among Storm's Victims

The beach party was not the only area hit by the weekend storm; the Milepost restaurant on Tremont Street had a bit of excitement as well.

At approximately 8:00 pm, lightning struck the restaurant's computer line outside the building, traveled through the line and caused the computer to explode. According to restaurant owner Patricia Johnson, only the computer was hurt.

"No one was hurt, everything was fine," Johnson said. "The computer was located in the office in the back of the restaurant, away from diners."

Though the restaurant was full, patrons knew nothing of the lightning strike. "The fire department came because they were concerned, as we were, with the electrical system in the walls. We wanted to make sure

everything was safe."

Johnson said that the explosion caused a loud noise, and when they investigated the noise, they found powder where the computer had once stood. "We ran manually for the rest of the evening," she said.

The Milepost was closed on Sunday for cleaning and the restaurant is normally closed on Mondays, so owners and employees had a few days for cleaning and recuperation.

"There was no real emergency on the part of the fire department," said Fire Chief William Harriman. "There was no fire, and there was no need to evacuate the building. Luckily one of our firefighters was dining at the restaurant, so he was able to check out the situation right away."

Department of Public Works

Director Walter Tonaszuck said that there was not much damage around town. "We measured about two and a half inches of rain, which isn't bad. The only real problem was a little washout on Chestnut Street which is under construction. This was nothing like the last lightning storm when lightning struck a transformer."

Lightning did strike a home on Plantation Drive, but Harriman said that no serious damage was done.

Though Duxbury fared the weather well, Harriman said that this was the worst thunderstorm he has ever witnessed. "The lightning was the sharpest and brightest I've ever seen and it really hung around for a long time."